

GRSMMP Conference Call 18 January 2007 - Notes

1. Participants in the conference call included Greg Ducote, Randy Runnels, Carl Ferraro, Barbara Keeler, Bruce Baird, Bob Martinson, Rafael Calderon, Bobbi Reed, Rick Ruebsamen, Stephanie Gambino, Jeff Williams, Kris Benson, Jeff Waters, Tom Calnan, and Larry Parson. The conference call agenda is included below.
2. The first topic of discussion was directed to the Needs/Purpose/Objectives statement and strawman. A new version of this was distributed that included a needs statement recommended at the New Orleans workshop in November. There were no further discussions and the need statement will stand as is. Discussion was directed to the changes to Section II of Master Plan strawman. As recommended in the December conference call the plan focus more on system processes such as riverine, estuarine, wetland/marsh, coastal, fine grained, and biological processes as these better define and are more related to the management strategies of RSM. It was recommended that offshore processes be added to this list. The changes will be made and distributed prior to the next conference call.
3. Next on the topic of discussion was the agenda for the March GRSMMP workshop. It was recommended that a statement of what we hope to accomplish be added as part of the introductory remarks. For the time slot addressing the regional sediment processes it was recommended that offshore processes be included since the offshore will play a large role in sediment resources.

The next item on the workshop agenda is a summary of the scientific assessment workshop that was held in December. A great deal of valuable information was brought out during that meeting as being applicable to the GRSMMP. Discussions on this topic at upcoming workshop should be geared towards setting priorities and timeframes based on the states major concerns, sediment needs, and regional management approaches. As previously discussed, the March workshop's main focus will identify the States' regional sediment management issues and associated opportunities and begin addressing sediment needs. It was confirmed that a NOAA representative will be attending the meeting and can discuss, and maybe demo, the Priority Habitat Information System (PHINS). This program was identified at the scientific assessment workshop as potentially being a geospatial platform for linking data from the different databases maintained by the various agencies in support of regional management.

Another recommended topic for the workshop is to add a slot for Corps representatives to discuss the dredging projects within their District. Such discussions should include where dredging is taking place, sediment type, and where the sediment is placed. Materials from dredging projects can be a valuable resource for many types of restoration projects.

One last recommendation for the workshop agenda is to allot enough time to discuss products coming out of the master. The group should constantly keep in mind the importance of how the GRSMMP will be organized to keep it visible in a form that

influences regional sediment management policy. Lastly, names should be assigned to the agenda topics and time slots.

4. It was brought to the group's attention that researchers and other private groups involved in wetland conservation and restoration are interested in this effort. The group addressed the concern of involving these interests at this time. The consensus was that they should be allowed to be involved if they so choose. They can be informed of activities and if they want to attend meetings/workshops, they should be responsible for their own arrangements. It was also expressed whether or not to include representatives from the dredging industry.

5. The discussion was led back to the master plan strawman that is being developed. It was pointed out that some of the states are already involved in creating a plan dealing with sediment resources and associated data bases to support regional sediment management. A suggestion was made to use these existing efforts to provide some guidelines as a starting point for the GRSMMP. It was recognized that these efforts may not be applicable to every state and each state has their own issues. However, the existing efforts can at least help to set a direction. The ongoing effort must keep in mind that the overall plan should not only address sediment resources and related data issues but must integrate how sediment management affects the regional sediment processes. Larry Parson will look at how this existing information can be brought together and given to the rest of the team. A final point to this discussion was that we are always looking for more beneficial uses of sediment and seeking new technologies to allow us to do so.

6. Recommended changes to the workshop agenda and strawman outline resulting from this conference call will be made and distributed to the team prior to the next conference call. The next GRSMMP conference call is scheduled for Friday, February 9 at 2:00 central. We tried to schedule it for Thursday as requested by some group members, however, that didn't seem to be a good day for many. Efforts will be made in the future to avoid Friday calls.

**Gulf of Mexico Regional Sediment Management Master Plan
Conference Call
January 18, 2007**

AGENDA

Discussion

- Objectives/Purpose Statement**
- Master Plan Outline**
- Statement of Need**

March Workshop

- Agenda**
- Participants**

Other Issues

- Products**
- Strawman**

Next Conference Call

